

MASS. EA40.2:B12

Back
to
the
Beaches

UMASS/AMHERST



312066016588863

Boston
Harbor



Have
You
Seen
Your
Beaches
Lately?

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

SEP 02 1998

University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

Boston Harbor is Back

“The Harbor Clean-up has turned into one of the remarkable success stories of recent years.”

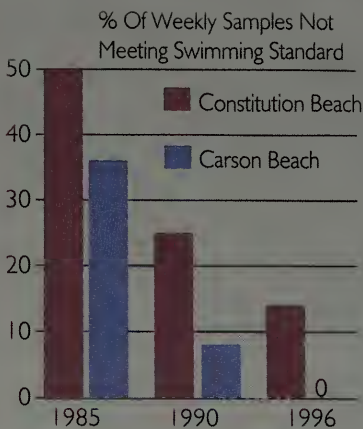
Boston Globe
Editorial
September 3, 1996



Swimming Conditions

at most Boston harbor beaches are better than they have been in decades. As aging beach facilities are upgraded and water quality improves, sunbathing, fishing and swimming are once again common at a dozen sandy beaches

right here in Boston. Multi-billion dollar projects to end sludge dumping and to rebuild the region's sewer systems are paying off. Get out to a Boston Harbor beach this summer and see for yourself.



Two popular Boston Harbor Beaches, Constitution and Carson, show the trend to cleaner water from 1985 to 1996.

Testing the Waters

The MDC conducts weekly water quality tests at all Harbor beaches and posts warning signs and flags whenever they detect a possible health risk. Daily sampling is conducted at some of the more popular beaches - such as Carson and Constitution - to better gauge the relationship between rainy weather and water quality.

Watch for the Flags

Water quality at MDC beaches is now indicated by colored flags: a blue flag indicates good swimming and a red flag indicates potential health risks (associated with elevated bacteria counts). Swimming is discouraged for 24 hours after each red flag posting. Though each beach is different, most red flag days occur after heavy rainfall, when local sewer systems sometimes overflow due to the combined load of rainwater and sewage - a problem known as a "combined sewer overflow." Urban run-off can also cause pollution.





Help Keep Beaches Clean

Use trash cans for cigarette butts, soda cans and any other garbage.

Don't throw trash or pour wastes like used motor oil and antifreeze into street drains. They flow to rivers and the harbor.

Clean up after your dog – animal wastes left on city streets degrade water quality.

Note: Dogs are not allowed on MDC Beaches from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Back to the Beaches

Governor William F. Weld and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino are carrying out a \$30 million "Back to the Beaches" plan to restore Harbor beaches.

Through the efforts of the Commonwealth, the City of Boston, The Boston Harbor Association and others, the beaches from Winthrop to Wollaston are already cleaner and more inviting. Re-sanding, shaded picnic areas, new benches, information kiosks, recreational programs, access ramps for the handicapped, landscaping and refreshment stands are just some of the improvements in this multi-year plan.

What is being done to stop wet weather pollution?

A long-term project to reduce combined sewer overflows is underway in Boston, Somerville, Cambridge and Chelsea. Together, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) and the City of Cambridge are spending \$420 million on projects to drastically reduce wet weather pollution. BWSC is also working aggressively to remove illegal connections to its storm drains that pollute beaches, while the City of Quincy is undertaking a major program of sewer repairs and stormwater management near Wollaston Beach.

"The harbor clean-up has given Boston some of the best urban swimming potential in the country. With the improvements now underway, we will have a resource that all people in the city can get to quickly and conveniently."

Vivien Li, Executive Director
The Boston Harbor Association
Boston Herald, May 26, 1996

Working together to improve harbor beaches:

The Boston Harbor Association

Metropolitan District Commission

City of Boston

Boston Water & Sewer Commission

Town of Winthrop

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

City of Quincy

Massachusetts Bays Program

Harbor Visions Crew

Who to call for more Boston Harbor Info:

Beach Water Quality Info:

Metropolitan District Commission 727-5264 x517

www.magnet.state.ma.us/mdc/harbor.htm

Transportation to Beaches:

MBTA 222-3200

www.mbta.com

Boston Harbor Beaches and Advocacy:

The Boston Harbor Association 482-1722

www.tbha.org

Boston Harbor Project:

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority 241-6057

www.mwra.com

Boston Harbor Events and Advocacy:

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay 451-2860

www.tiac.net/users/shsb

OnLine links to Boston Harbor pages:

[ftp.std.com/NE/harbor.html](ftp://std.com/NE/harbor.html)